1st Series. No. 73.

THE

EIGHTH REPORT

OF THE AMERICAN

UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION,

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE ANNUAL MEETING,

MAY 28, 1833.

BOSTON:
CHARLES BOWEN, 141 WASHINGTON STREET.
JULY, 1833.

Price 6 Cents.

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EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY.

The American Unitarian Association celebrated its eighth anniversary on the evening of Tuesday, May 28, 1833. The members met for the transaction of business at half past six o'clock, in the Berry-street Vestry, Dr Bancroft, the President, in the chair.

The records of the last annual meeting were read. The Treasurer presented the following Statement of Receipts and Expenditures, which was accepted.

Boston, May 28, 1832.

To the Executive Committee of the American Unitarian Association.

Gentlemen — Herewith you have my Annual Account as Treasurer of the American Unitarian Association, and a statement of the Receipts and Expenditures from May 29, 1832, to this date.

The balance in the Treasury is $1099,90, of which sum 45,06 belongs to the Domestic Mission fund, and the remainder to the funds of the Association.

Respectfully yours, &c.

Henry Rice.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures of the American Unitarian Association from May 29, 1832, to May 28, 1833.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the Treasury May 29, 1832, - -		449 71
From Annual Subscribers - - -	97 25	
" 10 Life " - - - - -	300	
" Auxiliary Societies, - - -	2111 95	
Donations, - - - - - - -	63	
Sales of Tracts, - - - - -	751 39	
From several Unitarian Societies for the support of a Domestic Missionary in Boston, - - - - - - -	844*	
Interest allowed by the Treasurer, -	54 31	
		4221 90
		$4671 61

EXPENDITURES.

Donation to Unitarian Society in Buffalo,	50	
Paid Rev. D. Huntington for Missionary services in State of New York - -	25	
" Rev. E. L. Bascom for Missionary services in Savannah Georgia, - -	75	
Carried over		$150

* This amount was thus obtained;

From the Ladies of Federal Street Church, -		$194
" " New South " - -		164
" " Brattle Street " - - -		101 50
" " West " - - -		91
" " Twelfth Congregational - -		50
" " Purchase Street " - -		48 50
" " Chauncy Place " - -		45
Subscriptions for 1832, which were received too late to appear in the last Report - - - - - -		150
		844 00

	Brought over	$150
Paid for Paper, and printing and binding Tracts,	2054 45	
" Incidental Expenses, as per account current,	67 26	
" Domestic Secretary for the Expenses of his office,	100	
" Charles Bowen one year's salary as general Agent,	300	
" Rev. J. Tuckerman one year's salary, as Domestic Missionary,	700	
" Rev. C. F. Barnard, six months salary, as assistant, &c.,	200	
		3,571 71
Balance,		$1099 90

HENRY RICE, *Treasurer.*

Boston, May 28, 1833.

BOSTON, MAY 28, 1833. The subscribers have examined the accounts of Henry Rice, Treasurer of the American Unitarian Association, and find them correct, the balance on hand this day being ten hundred and ninetynine dollars and ninety cents.

(*Signed*) JOHN WILLIAMS, JOHN CLARK. } *Auditors.*

The subject of the General Agency claiming the attention of the Association, it was voted, that the choice of Officers be deferred till Thursday evening, and that when the Association adjourn, it adjourn to meet at that time.

The following correspondence was read.

Boston, May 23, 1833.

To the Rev. Ezra Stiles Gannett.

Dear Sir,—I have the honor to communicate to you the following copy from the records of the American Unitarian Association: —

'An adjourned meeting of the American Unitarian Association was held on Thursday evening, May 31, 1832.'

'After a full discussion of the expediency of adopting measures for the appointment of a General Agent of the Association, it was *voted* to proceed immediately to the choice; and on counting the votes, Rev. Ezra S. Gannett was found to be unanimously elected.'

'The Executive Committee, with Messrs N. A. Barrett, George B. Emerson, and Benjamin Seaver, were appointed to make arrangements and provide means for carrying on the Agency.'

In furnishing you with these documents, it seems proper to state, that this official act has been delayed till now, chiefly from the wish that the Agent elect, previously to his being requested to make up and communicate his decision, might know the degree of success which would attend the efforts of the abovementioned Committee, in performing the duties assigned them by the Association. This success, it affords me great pleasure to be able at length to say, has been such as to warrant the Association in offering their Agent an annual compensation for his services that will be perfectly satisfactory, and at the same time to assure him of the very general sympathy and coöperation of the Unitarian community.

With true regard, your friend and servant,

Samuel Barrett.

Dom. Secretary pro tem. of the A. U. A.

Boston, May 25, 1833.

Rev. Samuel Barrett, Secretary pro tem. of the American Unitarian Association.

Dear Sir,—The circumstances that necessarily delayed the official communication with which I was honored through your letter of yesterday, did not prevent my giving to the subject of that communication much earlier attention. After the unexpected result of the last annual meeting of the American Unitarian Association, I could not but feel it to be my duty to consider the subject in every possible relation; and when after an interval, during which I thought it doubtful whether the project of establishing an Agency would be accomplished, the measures that were taken left no doubt on my mind of success, I again gave it most attentive consideration. It is now some months since the Executive Committee, to whom it seemed proper that my decision should be informally communicated, were made acquainted with my inability to accept the appointment of General Agent. They also know the reasons for this decision, and I believe they will acknowledge them to be very strong. To me the difficulties in the way of my accepting the office seem insurmountable. I must therefore respectfully and gratefully decline it.

To the members of the Association to whom I am indebted for this proof of their esteem and confidence, I cannot express my feelings. They are such as I should wish to cherish towards a benefactor and friend. I may be permitted to congratulate them on the success which has attended the efforts to put this Agency on a sure foundation, while in declining the trust which it involves it is a satisfaction to know that I leave it open to one better suited to discharge its duties.

With sincere regard, your friend,

Ezra S. Gannett.

Other documents, respecting the General Agency, were presented ; but the time having arrived for the services of the Church, the consideration of them was postponed till Thursday evening.

At half past seven o'clock the Association proceeded to the Federal Street Church. Prayers were offered by Rev. Pitt Clarke of Norton. The Annual Report of the Executive Committee was read by the Domestic Secretary pro tem.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee of the American Unitarian Association, in presenting their Eighth Annual Report, feel that they have reason to congratulate its members, and to recognise the continued favor of Divine Providence. They could not fail to find occasion for joy and gratitude, even if they should advert only to the pleasures and fresh impulses to duty, which the annual meetings of this Institution are so well suited to afford. But when they consider the principles which the Association professes to hold and is pledged to recommend—principles which it cost the Saviour his blood to establish, and which are the basis both of private and public welfare; when they reflect on the measures it has uniformly pursued for accomplishing its objects—measures which, if not always the wisest and most efficient, have certainly been devised in charity for all, and executed without infringing on the rights of any; and when they contem-

plate the success that has thus far attended its efforts — a success, though not equal to the wishes, yet greater than the expectations of its founders and patrons,— your Committee cannot but think that the friends of pure Christianity have signal cause to rejoice together, and to acknowledge with devout thankfulness the goodness of Almighty God. While they would not conceal that, during the past year, much has offered itself to their notice, in respect to the religious condition and prospects of our country, which occasioned them anxiety, and which, they must be permitted to add, imposes it as a sacred duty on all good men and true, to stand up and act together in support of our common faith and hope,— they are happy in being able to preface this account of their humble labors with an expression of their belief, that in no preceding year did the aspects of the cause to which this Association is devoted, appear brighter, on the whole, than they do at the present anniversary.

With regard to the Tract department, your Committee, though conscious of not having fulfilled in every respect the hopes they had cherished, of making their publications all that the various wants of the community might require, believe that they have labored to the extent of their ability to render the press at their command as efficient and useful as circumstances would allow. They have issued 12 tracts, during the past year, amounting to 66,000 copies. Within the same period 11 tracts have been reprinted, amounting to 28,000 copies; making a total of 94,000 copies printed within the last twelve months. For these publications there has been a constant demand, nearly 70,000 copies having been taken from the General Depository since the commencement of the year. Can these numerous mes-

sengers of truth be without effect? In this connexion, it may not be improper to mention, that in some sections of the country local associations have been formed for the purpose of printing and distributing tracts of a kind peculiarly suited to the tastes and wants of their immediate neighborhoods.

The Association continues to have a valuable auxiliary in the Unitarian Book and Pamphlet Society. Since our last Anniversary, it has distributed 5,000 tracts — 1000 more than during the preceding year; and its prospects of future usefulness are encouraging. Its rule, not to obtrude its publications on any, but to bestow them only when solicited, is favorably regarded; and scarcely a week passes without application to its Depository by those who know how to appreciate its gifts, and are disposed to employ them in a proper manner.

At no former period could your Committee have given so gratifying a statement respecting the Ministry to the Poor in this city, as they can at the present time. The labors of Dr Tuckerman have not been interrupted by any severe sickness during the past year; they have been attended with increasing success in the field of his usual exertions; and the additional services he has recently performed, under the direction of the Legislature of the State, in visiting the several Pauper establishments in the Commonwealth, and furnishing a Report of the results of his investigations, deserve the gratitude, as they must contribute to the benefit, of the whole community. Two Reports of great interest and value have been communicated by him to your Committee since our last meeting, one of which was published by the Association in December, and the other has just issued from the press.

They are not a mere detail of sufferings relieved, but contain enlarged and philosophic views of the whole subject of pauperism ; they are not ephemeral productions, but will be referred to by future writers as able and trustworthy documents. Your Committee have further to state that, perceiving the field of exertion among the poor of this city too large for a single laborer of our denomination, and desirous, at the same time, to relieve Dr Tuckerman of a portion of his arduous duties in this department, in order that he might devote his talents and the fruits of his long experience, in some measure, to the general subjects of pauperism, they undertook, early in the last season, to devise measures for securing the services of additional ministers to the poor. The result has been that Mr Charles F. Barnard, from the Theological School in Cambridge, was engaged in August, for one year ; and another gentleman has recently undertaken to prepare himself for the same sphere of usefulness. Mr Barnard now has the sole charge of the chapel in Friend Street, where religious services are performed twice every Sabbath, and where also a Sunday School is in very successful operation. The funds for the support of this valuable ministry have heretofore been contributed chiefly by the ladies of the several Unitarian parishes ; but the increased expense occasioned by the multiplication of laborers, will require new sources of pecuniary aid. The Committee have only to remark further, under this head, that the salutary influence of this ministry has not been confined to our metropolis. Not only has it led to similar institutions in England, but our brethren in the faith in New York have, with a praiseworthy liberality,

provided the necessary funds for one in that city ; and Mr George B. Arnold has been invited to become the first minister ; and he will probably accept the appointment.

Applications have continued to be made to this Association for donations in money to encourage the efforts of new societies, or to recruit the exhausted strength of old ones. Some of these your Committee have not complied with, either from want of ability, or because they disliked the principle of doing anything to perpetuate weakness. And here let them remark, once for all, that they deem it far better for any denomination of Christians, that the formation of new societies should be infrequent, and that extremely feeble ones should become extinct, than that the former should begin and the latter continue to exist, without any reasonable hope of being able to sustain themselves independently of assistance from foreign sources. Cases of this sort, however, have not been many during the past year; most of the requests for pecuniary aid having come from places where there seemed to be a strong probability that a little assistance seasonably bestowed would be the means of producing ample power of self-support. To these your Committee have voted such sums as their funds would allow and the exigencies of the respective societies appeared to demand. The societies referred to are in Savannah, Georgia; Buffalo, Oswego, and Trenton, N. Y.; and Farmington, Me. Tracts have also, on urgent solicitation, been bestowed gratuitously in several instances; and it is believed, not without good consequences.

The correspondence carried on by the Executive Department of the Association, during the past year, has

been considerable, though not so extensive as the interests of our denomination require. This deficiency, it is confidently hoped, will be supplied when one shall have taken the office of Domestic Secretary, who is not burdened with the duties of a laborious profession. It cannot but be obvious to all that the operations of the Association must be much facilitated, and the cause of pure religion in a great degree advanced throughout the land, by means of an active and wide correspondence. The Executive, in order to act seasonably and with wisdom, must have prompt and accurate intelligence of the condition and wants of the community; and the community, that it may avail itself of our labors, must have knowledge of our rules, plans and resources. In this place your Committee would gladly insert some extracts from their correspondence showing the religious wants of various parts of the country, and illustrative of the benefits which this Association is fitted to confer; but their limits forbid it.

It is known that the general finances of the Association depend chiefly on the annual subscriptions furnished by Auxiliaries. The number of these Auxiliaries is now about 80. Several new ones have been formed since our last anniversary, though not so many as your Committee had reason to expect; and they take the liberty now, as they have done in former Reports, to urge the importance of the further multiplication of Auxiliaries, till they shall equal the number of our Unitarian congregations. Every such Auxiliary confers a two-fold benefit; it increases the ability of the Parent Institution to extend its sphere of usefulness, and serves at the same time to awaken and perpetuate in the parish to

which it belongs that healthful spirit of religious inquiry, activity, and enterprise, so essential to its general prosperity. Before leaving the subject of Auxiliaries, your Committee may be allowed to advert to those of a wider compass. These can hardly fail to be useful, wherever they do not tend to prevent the formation or diminish the efficiency of those in towns and parishes. They will at least be the means of bringing the friends of Liberal Christianity together as a body from distant places, awakening sympathy, and increasing the zeal of many in the cause of truth and holiness. Take, for example, the State Auxiliary in New Hampshire, formed at Concord about a year ago. There are in that Commonwealth a dozen or more well established Unitarian societies; and several organized associations, each of which will soon be able to support a stated ministry. Besides, there are scattered through the State great numbers of persons, of character and influence, who agree with us in sentiment. But these individuals and societies, with their ministers, are for the most part widely separated from each other. They have little or no intercourse with each other, and are but partially acquainted with the progress of liberal views. Now can there be any doubt that a State Auxiliary, such as has been named, meeting annually in the capital of the Commonwealth, at the time when the Legislature is in session, must produce a wide and salutary effect? Is it not to be hoped that the period is not distant, when such an Auxiliary shall exist in every State of the Union?

It is with satisfaction that your Committee refer to the public meetings of Unitarians that have taken place during the past year in this city, and elsewhere. They

have generally been numerously attended, and in every instance, it is believed, have contributed to further the interests of pure religion. The two meetings of this Association, held where we are now assembled, on the 23d and 25th of October last, were by no means without valuable results; and so far as we can learn, those which have occurred in other places,—as for instance, at Lancaster, Worcester, Lexington, Cambridge, and New Bedford in this State; at Concord and Keene in New Hampshire ; at Hallowell and Augusta in Maine ; at Providence in Rhode Island; at Brattleborough in Vermont; at Washington in the District of Columbia ; and in many towns in Connecticut, — were not only gratifying to those who attended them, on account of the good spirit that prevailed, but of great and permanent advantage to the general interests of christian freedom and truth. It is strongly to be desired that these meetings should be still more frequent, and that the ablest and best men should deem it their duty and privilege to appear at them and express their views.

A subject which has, more than any other, interested your Committee of late, is that of the proposed Agency. It will be recollected that after discussion, May 31, 1832, the Association, with but one feeling as to the expediency of the measure, proceeded to the choice of a General Agent ; and on counting the votes it was found that Rev. Mr Gannett of this city was unanimously elected. At the same time, a Committee, consisting of the Executive Committee and three other gentlemen, were appointed to procure the necessary funds ; and they were authorized to pursue such measures as they might think expedient for effecting the object. This

Committee was afterwards greatly enlarged; and at one of its meetings two sub-committees were chosen; — the one, consisting of Professor Henry Ware, Jr., Hon. Wm. Sullivan, and Judge Story, to address a Circular to the several Unitarian auxiliaries and parishes throughout the country, soliciting their coöperation; and the other, of whom Judge Rogers was chairman, to undertake the duty of superintending the collection of the funds — a service which devolved chiefly on this gentleman, and which he has performed in a manner that deserves the gratitude of the Association. Nor can your Committee refrain from noticing here the exertions of the young men, belonging to Auxiliaries in this city. It recently occurred to them that they might do something towards augmenting the funds for the Agency. Accordingly, a committee was chosen for this purpose; and, within a few days, they have obtained 1500 dollars, and taken measures for securing a much larger amount.* On the whole, the result has been highly satisfactory. The amount already received or pledged, is about 19,000 dollars; and there still are a few parishes in the city, and a great many out of it, from which additional sums will probably be received. Should our reasonable expectations respecting these be answered, the success of the effort, as regards the pecuniary means for supporting the Agency, may be pronounced complete. There is one topic, however, connected with this subject, which occasions your Committee, as it must the

* The amount is now, July 1st, more than two thousand dollars, subscribed in this city. It would be gratifying to see this example followed by the young men of other towns.

Association generally, feelings of deep regret. They will only name it;—circumstances have compelled the Agent elect to decline accepting the office. Your Committee will simply add, that, thoroughly convinced as they were, a year ago, of the expediency of this office, they have since found much to strengthen the conviction, and to make them desirous to see it immediately and well filled.

As it regards what may be called the statistics of pure Christianity in this country, your Committee trust they have learned not to attach too much importance to particular facts, whether of an encouraging or disheartening kind. They know well enough the fallaciousness that belongs to the common method of measuring the progress of any set of principles merely by the list of names, — whether of individuals, societies, or agencies,—which usually appear in the Reports of them who are interested in the propagation of those principles. So far, however, as evidence of this character is to be depended on, that which the past year has afforded is gratifying. The Unitarian parishes in this city have not before been in so prosperous a condition as they are, in general, at the present moment, notwithstanding several of them have been severely tried by the absence or sickness of their ministers. Nor is it otherwise, your Committee believe, in regard to the great majority of our congregations in the other sections of the land. Many of them, we know, have received large accessions during the past year; and if a few have dwindled or become extinct, the fact, in relation to the general success of our cause, should be re-

garded much in the same light as we view the stationary or retrograde side-eddies of a noble stream, whose main current is deep, strong, and rapid, and which is sure, sooner or later, to receive again those reluctant waters and bear them onward. Several societies have been newly formed or recently become Unitarian — as for instance, at Leicester, Sutton, Westborough, Southborough, Topsfield, Haverhill, and Easton in this State; at Milford, Windham, and elsewhere in New Hampshire; at Calais, and other places in Maine; at Oswego in New York; at Savannah in Georgia; at Montreal in Canada; at Detroit in Michigan; — most of which have been supplied with preaching. Churches have been erected, or are in a course of building, in many towns; and ministers have been settled at Hardwick, Uxbridge, Hubbardston, Rowe, Pepperell, Taunton, Sandwich, Fitzwilliam, Walpole, Providence, and Richmond. A new periodical has been established at Buffalo, and one also at Billerica; while those of longer standing have, in general, been conducted with unusual ability, and, we are happy to state, are receiving an increased patronage. The past year has been distinguished by the appearance of several books on practical and doctrinal theology of uncommon merit; two of which deserve particular notice—'Discourses' by Dr Channing, and 'Reasons for not believing the Doctrines of Trinitarians,' by Mr Norton; works to which it would be difficult to find their equal in this department of learning in the English language. As regards the Theological School at Cambridge, its condition and prospects are highly encouraging. The number of *Congregational* Unitarian parishes in the United States is about 200; and if we should include all that reject the

doctrine of the Trinity, and adopt most of our leading views in religion, the number of societies would probably be more than 2000.

But, as we have already intimated, too much importance should not be attached to facts of this sort. There are signs of the times of a much more satisfactory character. What is the sure tendency of the discussions now going on in the denominations of Christians most opposed to us? What are the actual convictions, concealed indeed in many cases, yet determinate and fixed, of a vast majority of educated minds in this country? What are the spirit, impress, and tone of almost all the respectable literature in the land? What, in a word, are the direction and force of the great current of public opinion? Is it setting in favor of those systems of theology, which had their origin in ages of darkness, and which for centuries have shaped the popular faith? No one, in his senses, will pretend it. The great movement of the general mind in this country is towards free and liberal views in religion. Though gradual, it is sure as the course of the sun. Evils indeed, your committee are aware, accompany this change, as is the case with all considerable changes from bondage and error to freedom and truth. They need not be told of the increased virulence of bigotry on the one hand; nor of the spread of infidelity on the other hand; nor of more or less doubt, discontent, contention, breaking up of parishes, and the like, almost everywhere—these they know full well; they lament them; they do all in their power to lessen them. But in what light, after all, should these evils be viewed? They are to be looked upon as, in a measure, necessary—as inseparable from a state of progress from one degree of

improvement to another ; and they must be met and endured — so met and endured as that they shall become tributary to good in the end. At the same time, they are to be regarded as only incidental and temporary ; and, moreover, as of very little moment, in comparison with the vast benefits to be wrought out, under God, in the course of events. In view, then, of the sure and steady advancement that is making in this country towards enlightened and just sentiments on the most important of all subjects, religion, it becomes us to rejoice and be grateful. And not only so. We must labor to forward and direct it. Every one can do something—this Association, as it has done, so it can still do, much. A weight of responsibleness rests on us which we cannot throw off ; a responsibleness, may it not be said, of a peculiar character. We not only have, as we think, the religion of Jesus as it came pure from its divine source, but, as a denomination, we seem to occupy the medium — happy though it be, yet imposing fearful obligations — between most hurtful extremes. Our position is indeed a difficult one ; but is it not, too, a glorious one, even that of christian truth, freedom, charity, and righteousness ? These we are called on not only to profess, but to practice and recommend. Let us be equal to the demand. Is ours the true faith by which, as individuals, we can live, by which we can die ? let us cling to it — let us cherish it as our dearest treasure. Is ours the religion which human nature craves, and in which is the only sure hope of the regeneration of our race ? let us labor incessantly, and pray most fervently, that it may have free course and be glorified.

After the reading of the Report, Dr Bancroft, the President, briefly addressed the meeting. He said, that the facts which had been presented, called for lively gratitude to Almighty God, without whose blessing our efforts were vain, but who commanded man to labor for the promotion of truth and the advancement of piety. Dr B. suggested several weighty considerations which should excite us to greater activity in this holy cause.

Rev. Mr Parkman moved the acceptance of the Report. He believed it would meet the hearty concurrence of all present. No one could hear it without perceiving the arduous duties and cares of the Executive Committee, and the fidelity and judgment with which they had been sustained. He would congratulate the Association on the success which had attended the Tract Department, and the ministry to the poor. He commended the course pursued in relation to feeble churches, and spoke at some length on the importance of reviving the ancient spirit of New England,— the spirit of courage, independence, and trust in God which animated the hearts of our Fathers. He was no friend to the practice of dividing and weakening churches, for the sake of promoting Unitarian views, or any other views, and for one, was glad that the Executive Committee of the Association had the same ideas on this subject with himself.

Francis O. Watts, Esq. of this city, said that he rose to speak on a subject of deep interest to every Unitarian present. I refer, said he, to the General Agency. It is recorded in the proceedings of this Association, that we have seen fit to establish the office. I recollect, sir, and you recollect the spirit with which this

purpose was taken up at its commencement. It was one on which every heart felt, and felt deeply. I remember some time since, at a meeting in the Old South Church, in favor of the Cherokees, it was announced in the course of the evening, that a favorable decision had been made by the Supreme Court,— and a thrill of joy pervaded the whole assembly. A similar emotion was felt, sir, on this occasion last year, when it was whispered through this church that the meeting in the Vestry had resolved upon the appointment of a man, who should devote himself to the great cause in which we are engaged. I recollect the earnestness and devotion which were witnessed here at that time,— I recollect, sir, the feelings with which we united with you in supplications to God for his blessing upon our enterprise, — I recollect the strong emotions with which I left the house, feeling that it was good, very good to have been at the meeting, — and I recollect what has since been done. And am I now asked, if I am satisfied ? No, sir, I am not satisfied. Satisfied! when above a year ago, we had such statements of the wants of our country, of the opening fields of labor in the mighty West, of the souls hungering for the bread of life, who call upon us for aid, — and we have done so little! Sir, I am grateful for what has been done, but I am not satisfied. I cannot be. Hundreds and thousands have gone down to an unblessed grave,— have appeared to give their last account before their Maker,— and our Agent is not yet sent abroad,— we have done, compared with what we ought to do, nothing, — and for one, sir, I want more. I want to see your Agent making a commencement on those fields which are already white for the harvest.

And why, sir? We call ourselves the American Unitarian Association. We have, then, a national responsibility. Every American Unitarian, wherever he may be, has claims upon us. If we can do anything, by the service of an Agent, for his welfare, we are bound in duty to do it. Another reason, sir. You know well, the opposition that is made to the views of truth, which we hold. Sir, it is made in ignorance. We are bound to remove that ignorance. Let in light, and the prejudices will be destroyed. It was but the other day, two individuals were conversing on the religious opinions of a third,—and one said, 'he is a Unitarian.' 'No,' replied the other, 'he is not a Unitarian,—he is pious.' Owe we nothing, sir, to minds infected with such delusions? Shall we not attempt to show our fellow-men, at least, that Unitarianism and piety are not terms to be placed in opposition? Again, sir, our New England brethren, scattered throughout the whole extent of our land, have claims upon us. New England enterprise has carried New England Unitarians to every part of our country. In many instances, they are friendless and alone. Their hearts long for the sympathy which they enjoyed at their native home. We ought to hold them in remembrance, to bear them on our hearts and in our prayers; and not only so, but to go to them, by our missionaries, by our publications, as well as by our wishes.

But it is objected that this purpose is sectarian. Not so in the bad sense of the word. No more so than all our religious institutions,—our clergymen,—our weekly worship. Still it is said by some, that the purpose seems plausible,—they feel an interest in it, — but then

it is asked, is it not like the proceedings of the Orthodox? Sir, that is not the question. Is it good or bad? is it expedient or inexpedient? is it the work of God or of man?—this is what we are to ask. For my part, sir, I feel no objection to a good thing, because it is approved by an Orthodox brother. If the Orthodox are in advance of us, I am willing to follow them, under certain restrictions. While they follow our Lord, I rejoice to follow them. But when they leave him, I follow them no longer. Let this be called a missionary enterprise. What then? Sir, who was the first Christian Missionary? He, whom the Father sent into the world. Then, the apostles—then, the noble army of martyrs—then, all the brave spirits who have toiled and suffered for the truth of God and the cause of Christ; — they have been, and they must have been missionaries. And let no one object to this purpose, that it is a missionary purpose. Let it be supported. Let it go on with the blessing of God, and the devotion of earnest hearts. Sir, I have taken up too much of your time, and I ask pardon of you and this assembly.

Rev. Jason Whitman, of Saco, Me., said that he felt the importance of supporting Unitarianism, because it was a medium between dangerous errors. We believe that Orthodox Christians are in possession of many great truths, but hold them in combination with hurtful errors. They have gone to an unwarrantable and dangerous extreme. Others have gone in an opposite direction, to an extreme still more injurious. This imposes a great responsibility on Unitarians. Who have been most prominent in advocating the principles of free inquiry? Unitarians. But some who assume the dis-

tinctive name of Free Inquirers, have arrived at pernicious results, not by their free inquiry, but by their disregard of the correct principles of evidence. Their errors must be met, and they can be met to the greatest advantage by Unitarians, because they are the friends of sound and rational free inquiry themselves. So, too, with religious liberty. The advocates of this have gone to great extremes. Some think that religious liberty is nothing but the liberty to be irreligious. We are in danger from this spirit,—the spirit of nullification and misrule carried into religion. But by whom can it be successfully resisted, but by the sincere friends of true religious liberty? In like manner, the views of God maintained by Unitarians are often perverted. When called to the bed-side of the dying, we are asked if there can be any hope in the mercy of God, for the departing spirit. We announce the love, the forgiving grace of our heavenly Father. But there is danger even in this. Some minds are led to dwell so much on the mercy of God as to lose sight of the justice of his character,—the claims of his law. We are to labor, then, to preserve the truth, in the midst of these extremes. Let us feel our responsibility. Let us endeavor to make men more devout, more holy, more charitable, as well as more zealous, by the influences of the blessed truths which it is our privilege to hold.

Rev. John Pierpont then offered the following resolution:

'*Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Association, Unitarian Christianity is a form of religion which harmonizes with the moral nature of man, and is adequate to the religious wants of the human soul in all its scenes of trial, and in all portions of its being.'

In support of this resolution, Mr P. said that he believed Unitarianism harmonized with the religious nature of man—with the sentiments and feelings with which he was endowed by his Maker ; for it satisfactorily answers those questions which are asked by the human soul with the deepest interest. For instance, will God, as my Judge, forgive me on repentance without any other offering ? The moral nature of man craves a God and Judge, who will turn his ear to the voice of penitence and prayer—not a God, who will say there is no mercy, and you need none, because the debt is cancelled by the sufferings of another. Hear the parable of the Prodigal Son. It is a summary of pure and uncorrupted Christianity. The wretched wanderer returns to his Father's house. He goes with the deepest contrition and remorse. 'I am not worthy to be called thy Son.' He throws himself upon his Father's mercy. And what does his Father do? Refuse to admit him? Does he say that if the elder Son will submit to an ignominious death, and be hung up on the post of the door, the penitent may then cross the threshold and enter under his Father's roof? No. He goes out to meet him. He welcomes his return and accepts his repentance. This is the way with God. And this is what the deepest feelings in our nature require.

Still further, Unitarian Christianity is adequate to the wants of the soul in its greatest trials. What are they? Sorrow. See how it supported 'the man of sorrows.' Poverty. Hear the testimony of those who have labored for and with the poor, and you will learn what it can do for them. Death. It is adequate to this great trial. It will go with us through the dark valley.

Nothing can be more false than the assertion, that it will do to live by, but not to die by. Sir, a religion that is good in life, we might argue from the nature of man and the perfections of God, would be good in death. But we are not confined to this argument. We have facts. We have seen its influence in the hour of mortal agony. I was acquainted with a person myself, who was once an infidel. Under the preaching of Mr Buckminster, his attention was excited to the subject of Christianity. He examined its evidence -- he studied its doctrines— and became a firm believer in it, as understood and explained by his revered pastor. He adorned his faith by the beauty of an exemplary, consistent, and useful life. I saw him on the bed of death. In that dread hour, which divides eternity from time, I asked him if he was supported by the faith which he had professed. Pausing, and with accents broken with deep emotion, he replied, 'Sir, I thank God, that he has permitted me to become acquainted with the truths of religion, cherished by Unitarians. They have been my support in life and are my hope in death. I cling to them as to the refuge of my soul, and I die in peace.'

Mr President, I will say no more. One such voice from the bed of death is a refutation of the popular saying, that we can live by Unitarianism, but cannot die by it.

Rev. Mr Gannett made a few animating remarks on the duty of Unitarians at the present crisis. They are called upon to take a deeper interest in their views of Christian doctrine, Christian character, and Christian hope. While changes are taking place in our established ecclesiastical relations, and the usual means of religion

changing their form, let us be alive to our imperative and solemn responsibility.

After Mr Gannett closed his remarks, the Association, according to a previous vote, adjourned to meet on Thursday evening, at 7 o'clock.

At 7 o'clock on Thursday evening the Association met in the Berry-street Vestry, Dr Bancroft in the chair. After prayers by the President, and the reading of the records of the last meeting, the Association proceeded to the business left unfinished on Tuesday evening. Judge Rogers read the following Report.

REPORT RESPECTING THE FUNDS FOR THE AGENCY.

The Committee of the American Unitarian Association who were appointed to 'make arrangements and provide means for carrying on the Agency,' beg leave respectfully to Report : —

That from June to September of the last year, your Committee held several meetings to consult upon the best manner of performing their trust, but on account of the absence of many of our friends from the city, and the danger of impending disease, it was not thought expedient to bring the subject before the public at that time. In September, they nominated Committees in the parishes of this city, in most of the counties of this Commonwealth, and in some other places, and addressed to them a circular. The Committees of the city pa-

rishes were invited to meet with the General Committee, when it was resolved to call a public meeting for the purpose of addressing the body of Liberal Christians in behalf of this undertaking. Such a meeting was accordingly held on the evening of the twentythird of October, and another by adjournment, on that of the twentyfifth, in the Federal Street Church; and the claims of this object upon the friends of Unitarian Christianity were presented to crowded and respectable assemblies, by Judge Story, Professors Ware and Palfrey, Rev. Messrs Brownson, May, and Walker, Mr Rogers, and Hon. William Sullivan; when on motion of the gentleman last named, it was unanimously

'*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this meeting, the establishment of an Agency of the American Unitarian Association is a measure so important to the best interests of Liberal Christianity, that it has strong claims for aid and support upon our religious Societies, and upon individual Christians; and that we cordially approve the intended application of the Association to our several parishes in this city and throughout the country.'

The Committees in the parishes in Boston and in a few places in the country, then proceeded to solicit subscriptions in aid of the funds for the support of the Agency. From peculiar circumstances of delicacy in the case, no application has yet been made to the Rev. Mr Gannett's Society.

It will be remembered that at the last annual meeting a few subscriptions were taken. Most of these are included in, and make part of donations and subscriptions in the several societies. The remainder, not so included, are as follows:

Hon. Stephen C. Phillips—donation - -	$500
Rev. Henry Ware, Jr., for self and others, $100 per annum, -	500
Hon. Joseph Story, $20 " " - -	100
Rev. Aaron Bancroft, $10 " " - -	50
	$1,150

Subscriptions have been received from the several societies in this City to the following amount.

Twelfth Cong. Society, Rev. Mr Barrett's,	$2,177
New North Society, Rev. Mr Parkman's,	1,975
New South Society, Rev. Mr Young's, -	1,928
Brattle Street Society, - - - -	1,921
Purchase Street Society, Rev. Mr Ripley's,	1,744
South Cong. Society, Rev. Mr Motte's, -	1,441
Hollis Street Society, Rev. Mr Pierpont's,	1,360
Second Church, - - - - -	867
King's Chapel, Rev. Mr Greenwood's, -	710
West Church, Dr Lowell's, - - -	340
First Church, Rev. Mr Frothingham's, -	245
Hawes Place Church, S. Boston, Rev. Mr Capen's,	77
Individuals, not included above, - -	350
	15,135

About one half of this sum, consisting of the donations and the first year's subscriptions, will be payable this year; and the remainder within five years, by annual instalments.

The following contributions, chiefly for the present year, from societies and individuals out of the city, have been already paid.

Rev. Charles Brooks's Society, Hingham,	$ 40 00
" Convers Francis's Society, Watertown,	103 00
Ladies of Rev. C. Sewall's Society, Danvers,	20 00
Rev. Mr Edes's Society, Canton, - -	17 89

Rev. C. Wellington's Society, Templeton,	30 00	
Mrs Sophia Bronson, by Rev. C. Brooks,	5 00	
First Parish in Roxbury, Rev. Mr Putnam's,	51 00	
Rev. Mr Whitney's Parish in Roxbury, -	30 00	
First Parish in Dorchester, Rev. Dr Harris's,	51 00	
" " in Medfield, Rev. Mr Kendall's,	23 00	
" " in Dedham, Rev. Mr Lamson's,	30 00	
Dr Richmond's Society, Dorchester, - -	13 00	
Ten donors in Hallowell, - - -	110 00	
Some Ladies, by Rev. H. Ware, Jr - -	15 00	
Individuals in Concord, - - - -	11 00	
Worcester, Dr Bancroft's and Mr H.'s Society,	255 00	
First Parish in Groton, Rev. Mr Robinson's,	21 40	
Providence Auxiliary, - - - -	57 37	
Rev. Mr Allen, of Bolton, - - -	5 00	
Sherburne, Rev. Mr Clarke's Society, -	10 32	
Lexington, Rev. Mr Briggs' Society, - -	40 21	
Marlborough, Rev. Mr Alden's Society, -	20 00	
Framingham, First Parish, - - -	44 00	
		1,003 19

The sums subscribed by other societies and individuals out of the city have not yet been officially made known to the Committee, except the following :

New Bedford, Rev. Mr Dewey's Society, $140 per annum, for 10 years, - -	1,400	
Springfield, Rev. Mr Peabody's Society, within five years, by annual instalments, -	873	
Dr Ripley, of Concord, $5 annually for life,		
Lexington, Rev. Mr Briggs's Society, the interest of $320 annually, for five years, -	96	
An individual of Rev. Mr Hedge's society, West Cambridge, $5 per annum, - -	25	
An individual of Rev. Mr Putnam's Society, Roxbury, $5 per annum, - - -	25	
Washington, D. C., Rev. Mr Palfrey's Society,	30	
		2,449

After the Boston Parish Committees had finished their operations in their respective societies, a number of young men belonging to the Auxiliary Associations in the city, thought that some persons might yet remain who had not been requested to contribute, and a few others who would add something more to their former liberality. With a deep sense of the importance of our undertaking, and a great interest in its success, they decided that so good a cause was worthy of another effort; and within the last few days they have been actively engaged in gathering in the scattered sums which had been left by those who went before them. The result of their labors has been to add to our funds the sum of $1,500, which will probably be still further increased by their persevering efforts.* They have also addressed Circulars to the young men of the other considerable towns in New England. This is only one good work among many, in which these young men are known to be employed. Your Committee are not permitted by the limits of this Report to express all the feelings of approbation which must arise in the breast of every one present. But they cannot but rejoice in these pledges, that when we are called from our labors, we are to be succeeded by hearts more warmly interested, and hands still more active in the cause of truth and human happiness, than ours have ever been.

Your Committee have taken pains to communicate to the friends of Liberal Christianity generally, the facts and reasons which show this measure to be an important one. Besides distributing copies of the Circulars, Reports of

* See the Note on page 16. The sums collected by the young men are included in those set against the parishes to which the contributors respectively belong.

the meetings, and other papers respecting the Agency, in places where aid might be expected, they requested three gentlemen to visit different parts of New England as the Agents of the Association, to press this subject upon the attention of our friends. Rev. Moses G. Thomas visited several parts of Maine, and in his letter dated February 15, 1833, after some local information respecting the sums to be expected there, (calculated at $1,360,) he remarks ; 'such is the result as far as I can judge from the assurances which I received, and I doubt not but that the Association will receive somewhere between ten and fifteen hundred dollars.'

Rev. Alonzo Hill, who visited the county of Worcester and some of the western counties, in his letter dated April 3d, writes as follows. 'I have seen nearly all the liberal clergy in this county, and have had communication with some in the county of Franklin, Hampshire, &c. Our own Society has attended to the subject of the Agency, and has manifested a good spirit. They have preferred making occasional contributions towards the object to raising a fund. As the first fruits of their liberality we shall be able to send you between 250 and $300. Sterling, Lancaster, Bolton, Fitchburg, Templeton, Petersham and Barre, will be able to contribute from 30 to 60 or $70 each, a year. They all intend to take contributions in the Spring. Something more than what I have named will probably be gathered from individuals, and from some of the smaller societies.'

In another letter dated May 6, Mr Hill writes ; 'I have seen nearly all the clergymen in this county, and on Connecticut River. I met the Franklin Association last Tuesday at Deerfield. They compose about twelve societies. I stated to them my object, and

found them altogether favorably disposed towards it. They promise to pay at least fifty dollars a year, so long as the Agency shall be needed. They recommend that the Agent commence a quarterly publication giving an account of his doings, and other statistical matters. They pledge themselves to get subscribers enough to pay for the publication, and their full proportion for the support of an Agent. The idea of such a work strikes me favorably. Of our own Association I have already informed you. You may safely calculate upon a growing interest in the subject. You may depend on my efforts to do all in my power.'

Rev. Mr Muzzy, who visited several parts of the county of Middlesex, in his letter of a recent date gives the following statement. 'The measure has been almost universally approved of, and in a few instances sums have been already advanced to promote it. Pledges have been given to the amount of from $500 to $600, in those Parishes from which returns have now reached me. As many individuals have preferred paying annual contributions rather than donations to this object, I have received comparatively little, only about $140 in this way. There are several towns in the northern and western sections of the county, whose religious condition calls loudly for the services of a temporary preacher, and who are looking with much anxiety for your Agent. These I have found to contribute most heartily to the support of that office. I would add, that much good may be done in many towns in this county, and I presume in all where there are Auxiliaries to the Parent Association, by an annual visit of the General Agent for the purpose of strengthening such Auxiliaries, and awakening thereby

a deeper interest in the support and diffusion of Liberal Christianity. These visits would do much to produce and deepen in the minds of our brethren a sense of the duty and importance of doing something in aid of the general interests and public institutions of our faith.'

Your Committee feel that the Association is under great obligation to the gentlemen who have visited different parts of the country, for their faithful services. They are also encouraged by the good wishes for our success which they hear on all sides, and by the promises which have been given by many, to do something hereafter. They cannot but express a grateful sense of the liberality which has been manifested in several of the societies in this city. In some of them the amount obtained has been greater than they had dared to expect. A generous contribution will probably be received from one Society that has not as yet had an opportunity to act on this subject. Additional subscriptions are hoped from some that have not done their proportional part. On the whole, the prospects in regard to pecuniary means are highly gratifying. The entire sum already subscribed does not vary much from $19,737 ; 15,135 of which have been obtained in this city. If the exertions of our friends in the country should realize our hopes and expectations, a sufficient amount will be raised for the support of an Agent for many years, and we may then congratulate ourselves upon our complete success, and anticipate the enjoyment of the great benefits of a measure so important to the advancement of liberal and enlightened views of Christianity.

All which is respectfully submitted for the Committee.

JOHN GRAY ROGERS

The above Report was accepted. The Executive Committee then presented a Report containing the outline of a plan for the General Agency, which was read, discussed, and with some amendments adopted. This Report, as amended, follows.

REPORT OF A PLAN FOR THE GENERAL AGENCY.

It having been ascertained that the necessary funds for the support of a General Agency will be raised, it becomes the duty of the Executive Committee to ask instructions of the American Unitarian Association, by which they may be guided in such superintendence of the Agency as it may be proper for them to maintain. At the same time, as the subject has been for some months under their attention, it may be expected that they should present an outline of the service, to which in their judgment the Agent should devote himself, with whatever other remarks may be necessary in laying the whole subject before the Association for their final action. The Committee therefore beg leave to present the following Report for consideration.

It must be obvious to every one, that the creation of this office, not having been meditated when the Association was formed, renders an amendment of the Constitution necessary. The Committee recommend that all the duties which are at present divided between the *Foreign* and the *Domestic Secretaries* be assigned to the Agent, who shall have the title of *General Secretary*, but that another office be created, to be filled by an *Assistant Secretary*, who shall, in case of the sickness or absence of the General Secretary, perform those

duties of a Recording and Corresponding Secretary, which require immediate attention. They advise that the 5th article of the Constitution be amended by striking out all the words between 'Vice Presidents and a Treasurer,' and substituting these words, 'a General Secretary, who shall have the care of all the business and interests of the Association under the control of the Executive Committee, an Assistant Secretary who, in case of the absence or sickness of the General Secretary, shall perform such duties of a Recording and Corresponding Secretary, as may require immediate attention.'

In assigning the duties of this office, the Committee believe that neither they nor the Association can do anything more than give some general views, while in the execution of his trust much must be left to his judgment, subject to the advice of the Executive Committee.

According to the amendment of the Constitution which they have just proposed, all the duties that now devolve on the Foreign and the Domestic Secretaries will be committed to the General Secretary. He will keep the records of the Association and of the Executive Committee, will conduct all the correspondence at home and abroad, will make preparations for the annual and extraordinary meetings of the Association, and in a word will take upon himself all the service which is commonly expected of the Secretary of such an institution.

Besides this general care, he will particularly attend to the publication of the Tracts. It will be his duty to procure and present to the Committee for their appro-

bation suitable Tracts, and to see that they are properly printed and distributed. He will, as shall be found best, either assume the care of the distribution which is now the business of the General Agents, or give them such directions and assistance as he may deem proper.

In this connexion the Committee may state, that foreseeing the necessity of an office in a central part of the City for the use of the General Secretary, they have hired a room of convenient size and easy access, in Washington Street opposite School Street, (over Russell, Odiorne, and Co's Bookstore,) at which the business of the Association may be conducted, and the meetings of the Executive Committee be held.

In promoting the interests of the Association, besides what may be properly styled its business, the Committee think the labors of the General Secretary may be arranged under four divisions.

1. He should make it a special object to form and strengthen Auxiliary Associations. He should, if possible, form one in every Unitarian Society, revive those that are declining, and by correspondence, and attendance at the meetings of these Auxiliaries, endeavor to give them vigor and permanency. Through these Auxiliaries, as well as by individual subscriptions, particularly those of life-members, he should obtain as far as practicable an increase of the funds of the Association.

2. He should, by conversation and writing, endeavor to spread an intelligent and warm interest in Christian truth among Unitarians. The Committee believe that he may do great good in this way. By free communication with those who hold generally the same opinions with himself, he may lead them better to un-

derstand and more highly to value their religious sentiments, and may inspire a more solemn purpose, both to recommend them by their lives, and to diffuse them by coöperation in measures for this end.

3. He should exert himself to introduce our views of the gospel and of Christian character among those who now regard them with indifference and hostility. By writing and by visiting, by talking and by preaching he should spread a knowledge of these views, abate prejudice, persuade the skeptical to believe, and the ignorant or misinformed to entertain more just notions, and in every way which a sound judgment will approve must increase the number of enlightened and practical Christians.

4. He must give his attention, so far as may be consistent with the more immediate duties of his office, to all those institutions and measures with which is connected the success of pure Christianity. The increase of students at the Theological School, the supply of destitute churches, the circulation of our periodical works, and whatever other means may seem to him to be essential or conducive to the spread of true religion, should receive such share of his thought and time as may be given to them without neglecting his other more strictly official duties.

It will be perceived that the Committee expect the Agent to devote his whole time to the Association. This is their expectation, for they believe that the duties of this office are more than the most able and diligent individual can fully discharge. They cannot indeed be fixed within any limits, if we regard either the nature of the enterprise, the importance of the work, the extent of the field of operation, or the variety of

the means that may be used. The incumbent should give to it all the time which is not demanded by personal and domestic duties.

It must also have been observed that the General Secretary is expected to preach. The Committee think that he should preach whenever opportunity occurs on Sundays and on other days, and if they did not believe that he will have more calls of this nature than he can answer, they should say that he ought to seek opportunities. On all extraordinary occasions, and on a Sunday to a congregation who need such assistance, this service may be rendered gratuitously, but when requested to supply the pulpit of a society able to pay for preaching he should receive the usual compensation, which he should place to the credit of the Association.

It will farther be seen that the General Secretary must take frequent and long journeys. The Committee think that he should spend from three to six months of the year at a distance from Boston. An annual tour through New England, and an annual visit to the State of New York, will probably be expedient. A journey to the Southern or the Western States, which must necessarily occupy at least three months, should also be taken every two or three years. Circumstances must determine what part of the country shall be visited at a particular time, and at what places the principal stay shall be made. In the cities or large towns of the South and West, it may be proper for him to remain several weeks. His distant journeys should be so arranged, that he may be in Boston at the anniversary, and at any other public meeting of the Association.

It should be the duty of the General Secretary to re-

port to the Executive Committee at every monthly meeting, either in person or by writing, the measures which he has adopted during the previous month, or which he is then pursuing. And he should take no journey which would detain him from home for a longer time than a fortnight without the consent of the Committee.

After this outline of the service which may be required of the new officer, the Association will be prepared to receive the suggestions of the Committee respecting his salary, which, like all the other parts of this Report, they would merely offer for discussion. [The remainder of this paragraph was so amended by the Association, that its original form could not be retained. The Association voted that the salary of the General Secretary should be fixed at $1500, exclusively of all expenses, and adopted the suggestion of the Executive Committee, that] if it should at any time be thought best that the office of the General Secretary be the General Depository, and the present business of the General Agents be transacted there, the present salary of the General Agents might be allowed to a permanent clerk.

In respect to the funds which have been, or may be, contributed to this object, it will appear from a Report which has been offered by the Committee to whom this business was entrusted, that about one half of the amount secured has been in the form of annual subscriptions for five years, a small part in annual subscriptions for a shorter period, and the rest in donations. Over that portion which is in annual subscriptions we can of course have no control ; the other part the Committee recommend should be funded, that the interest, and if at any future time the principal be re-

quired, this also may be appropriated to the support of the Agency.

The Committee have now expressed, with as much brevity as was consistent with clearness, their views on the duties, responsibleness, and compensation of the General Secretary. They submit them for examination, in the hope that the whole subject will be thoroughly canvassed, and that the result will furnish them or their successors in office with definite principles and rules by which they may be governed in their future proceedings.

The Committee cannot refrain from one farther expression of opinion on this subject. While they are more and more convinced of its importance, and believe now more strongly than ever before, that the establishment of this office will be productive of great good, they deem it an act of justice to him who may be chosen to fill the place, to prevent the disappointment which might arise from too sanguine expectations of visible and notorious effects. A large part of the good which the General Secretary will do, can never be described in an Annual Report, nor be represented by numbers. The Committee look to the diffusion of influences which must work silently, rather than with noise, and with less of violence than of permanent effect. They do not therefore either expect or desire that the Secretary shall spread before them on each anniversary a report of undertakings, all of which have been crowned with brilliant success. They will be satisfied if they see him busily and heartily engaged in promoting the objects of his appointment, and will trust the results to the force of those everlasting principles of the divine gov-

ernment, which forbid that the consecration of talent and labor to the best interests of mankind should be fruitless.

All which is respectfully submitted by the Committee.

The Association proceeded to the choice of Officers for the ensuing year. Rev. Alonzo Hill and Rev. George Putnam of Roxbury, were appointed to collect and count the votes. The following Officers were elected.

OFFICERS

OF THE

AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.

1833 — 34.

PRESIDENT.

Rev. Aaron Bancroft, D. D., of Worcester, Mass.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Hon. Joseph Story, Mass.
" Joseph Lyman, "
" William Sullivan, "
" Charles H. Atherton, N. H.
" Stephen Longfellow, Me.
Henry Wheaton, Esq. N. Y.
James Taylor, Esq. Penn.
Henry Payson, Esq. Md.

Hon. William Cranch, D. C.
Martin L. Hurlburt, Esq. Penn.
Hon. Samuel S. Wilde, Mass.
" Samuel Hoar, Jr. "
Timothy Flint, Esq. Ohio.

DIRECTORS.

Rev. James Walker,
" Ezra S. Gannett.
" Alexander Young.

Rev. Henry Ware, Jr. *Foreign Secretary.*
" Samuel Barrett, *Domestic Secretary.*
Henry Rice, Esq. *Treasurer.*
Rev. Charles C. Sewall, *General Agent.*

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.

1. The name of this Association shall be The American Unitarian Association.

2. The objects of this Association shall be to diffuse the knowledge and promote the interests of pure Christianity throughout our country.

3. Unitarian Christians throughout the United States shall be invited to unite and coöperate with this Association.

4. An annual subscription of one dollar shall constitute a person a member so long as such subscription shall be paid, and a subscription of $30 shall constitute a person a member for life.

5. The officers shall be a President, fifteen Vice Presidents, a Secretary for foreign correspondence who shall be styled the Foreign Secretary, a Secretary for correspondence within the United States and for keeping the records of the Association, who shall be called the Domestic Secretary, a Treasurer, and three Directors.

6. The Directors, Secretaries, and Treasurer, shall constitute the Executive Committee, who shall meet once in each month, and shall have the direction of the funds and operations of the Association.

7. An annual meeting shall be held at such time and place, as the Executive Committee shall deem advisable, of which due notice shall be given, and at which officers shall be chosen, reports be made, and any other business be transacted, which may come before the Association.

8. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill any vacancies which may occur among the officers between any two annual meetings.

9. Any amendments of this Constitution shall be proposed at one annual meeting, and may be accepted at the next anniversary, if two thirds of the members present be in favor of such amendments.

Vote passed by the Executive Committee, September 23, 1826, as amended March 18, 1830.

'*Resolved*, That every member of the Association be entitled to one copy of every tract *of the first and second series* published by the Association *during the year for which his subscription is entered.*'

Vote of the Executive committee, passed January 4, 1826,

'*Voted*, That no society be recognised as auxiliary to this Association, the terms of subscription to which are less than those required in the Constitution of this Association.'

Vote passed by the Executive Committee, June 20, 1833.

'*Voted*, That the 4th Article of the Constitution be so construed, that any one who shall pay $30 for the General Agency of the American Unitarian Association, either at once, or by annual instalments within five years, shall be considered a life member.'

CLERGYMEN MEMBERS FOR LIFE.

The following Clergymen have been made members for life of the American Unitarian Association, by the donation of thirty dollars or more, principally from ladies of their respective societies.

Abbot, Abiel.
Alden, Seth.
Bancroft Aaron, D. D.
Barrett, Samuel.
Bartlett, John.
Bascom, Ezekiel L.
Brazer, John.
Briggs, Charles.
Brooks, Charles.
Channing, Wm. E., D. D.
Colman, Henry.
Dewey, Orville.
Edes, Henry, D. D.
Farley, Frederick A.
Field, Joseph.
Flint, Jacob.
Flint James, D. D.
Fox, Thomas B.
Furness, Wm. H.
Gannett, Ezra S.
Gannett, Thomas B.
Greenwood, F. W. P.
Hall, Edward B.
Hamilton Luther.
Howe, Moses.
Ingers oll, Gorge G.
Kendall, James, D. D.
Lamson, Alvan.
Lincoln, Calvin.
*Little, Robert.
Loring, Bailey.
Lothrop, Samuel K.
Motte, Melish I.
Nichols, Ichabod, D. D.
Palfrey, John G. Prof.
Parker, Nathan, D. D.
Parkman, Francis.
Pierpont, John.

* Dead.

Richardson, Joseph.
Ripley, George.
Ripley, Samuel.
Robinson, Charles.
Sewall, Charles C.
Storer, John P. B.
Stetson, Caleb.
Sullivan, Thomas R.
Thayer Christopher T.
Walker, James.
Ware, Henry, jr. Prof.
Ware, William.
Wells, George W.
Whitman, Bernard.
Whitman, Nathaniel.
Young, Alexander.

OTHER MEMBERS FOR LIFE.

Abbot, Samuel.
Adams, Abel.
Adams, Benjamin T.
Adams, James, jr.
Adams, Philip.
Alger, Cyrus.
Alger, Francis.
Ames, David W.
Andrews, Ebenezer T.
Aspinwall, Samuel.
Atherton, Charles H.
Ball, S. S.
Barrett, Nathaniel A.
Baker, Henry F.
Bird, John H.
Blanchard, Hezekiah.
Bliss, George.
Bliss, Mrs B. D.
Bradlee, Joseph P.
Bracket, Samuel E.
Brooks, Peter C.
Bond, George.
Bond, George W.
Bowen, Charles.
Bowditch, Nathaniel.
Cartwright, Charles W.
Carew, Joseph.
Chapman, Mrs Jonathan.
Chapin, Harvey.
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